

Appln. No.: 10/508,992  
Amendment Dated: May 16, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of: February 21, 2007

MAT-8600US

**Remarks/Arguments:**

The Examiner has objected to Fig. 15. Fig. 15 has been replaced.

Claims 1-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Niemitolo (US 6,996,228) and Yasohara (US 2004/0007998). Yasohara has a filing date of February 24, 2003. Applicants, however, claim priority based upon JP 2002-102352, which has a filing date of April 4, 2002. A Verified Translation of Applicants' priority document is enclosed. As Applicants' priority document was filed prior to the filing date of Yasohara, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515  
Attorney for Applicants

LEA/bj

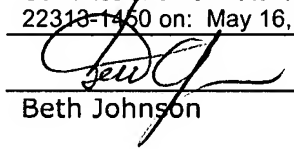
Attachments: Figure 15 (1 sheet)  
Verification of Translation  
Priority Document JP 2002-102352

Dated: May 16, 2007

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 18-0350 for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: May 16, 2007.

  
Beth Johnson

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